

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Cooperative for Haberdashery	DATE DISTR.	25 October 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The Cooperative for Haberdashery, one of the largest cooperatives in Sofia, has its office at 10 Simeon I Street and its eight production departments located throughout the city as follows: five in Simeon I Street, two in Serdika Street, and one in Hilendar Street. The cooperative has 200 members, 180 of whom are women.
2. The cooperative produces about 800 different items of haberdashery and fancy goods, including shoe laces, suspenders, brassieres, garters, textile nettings, string, etc. One of the departments in Serdika Street, employing 25 workers, manufactures only nettings. The work is done by hand without any technical equipment. The department producing shoe laces is one of those in Simeon I Street. This department also works without technical appliances, with the exception of some small hand presses for the metal parts of the laces. The other departments are engaged in various types of sewing and dressmaking, their equipment consisting of about 60 sewing machines, half of them electric including ten overlock machines, and five electric cutting machines.
3. The plan for 1953 envisaged an output worth 18 million leva; the plan was fulfilled by 130 per cent, the cooperative yielding an output of 24 million leva. However, factory production in Bulgaria is assessed according to 1939 prices, which are higher than present day prices. This difference is sometimes utilized in comparing plan figures with actual output, each item being assessed according to two widely differing price groups, thus resulting in remarkable overfulfillment of the plan. Such artifices are resorted to by some works or authorities in order to encourage other plants and to publicize the achievements of the Communist economy. This was done in the case of this cooperative in 1953. The production scheduled for 1954 for this cooperative amounts to 20 million leva.
4. Cotton cloth is supplied to the cooperative by the Georgi Dimitrov (formerly Tsar Boris) mill at Varna and by the Georgi Dimitrov mill at Provadiya. Hemp for string is supplied mainly by the Konopena Fabrika at Belene and the Konopena Fabrika at Gara-Levski, next to the railway station of this name on the Sofia-Ruse line.

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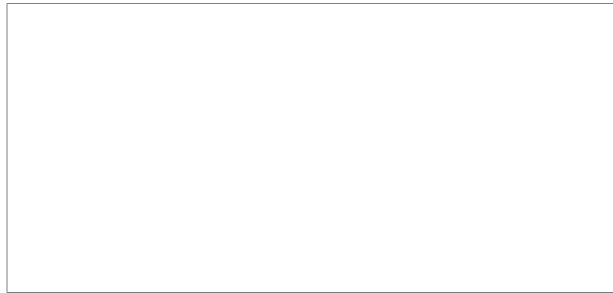
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5. The cooperative also fills orders for the Ministry of Defense. From May to December 1953 the Netting Department was employed exclusively on the manufacture of 400,000 camouflage nets for steel helmets. In 1953 the cooperative executed another order for the Army consisting of 10,000 uniforms of multicolored camouflage cloth for the Armored Corps. At the same time the Cooperative of Invalids (Koperatsiya Za Invalideti) in Belchev Street, Sofia worked on an order for 50,000 uniforms of the same type. This cooperative usually produces bedding and paillasses for the Army.



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